



CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT
& HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

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**ASIA-PACIFIC DISEASE OUTBREAK
/SURVEILLANCE REPORT**

Week of Jul 04, 2005

CAMBODIA

Cambodian Influenza Outbreak Kills 3 People

A 20-year-old man has become the latest fatality in a flu outbreak in Cambodia, where two infants have died in recent weeks. The man died at a hospital in Phnom Penh after being admitted from a local orphanage. Thirteen other people from the orphanage were hospitalized with flu-like symptoms. All of the patients were reported to have eaten chicken before they fell ill, but it's unknown whether their illnesses might be related to avian influenza -- blood tests are still being conducted. Last week other sick children had tested positive for the influenza B virus, a common strain that can cause death, but does not have as high a fatality rate as avian influenza. Laboratory test results for the current cases are expected shortly. More than 1,000 children have been hospitalized with what health officials describe as a seasonal illness.

Source:

· *Newsday.com*, Jul 05, 2005, <http://www.newsday.com/news/nationworld/world/wire/sns-ap-cambodia-human-flu.0.6411536.story?coll=sns-ap-world-headlines>

· *The Daily Democrat*, Jul 02, 2005,

http://customwire.ap.org/dynamic/stories/C/CAMBODIA_FLU?SITE=CAWOO&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME

· *Promed Mail*, Jul 03, 2005,

http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:8426390229456663541::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010,29521

CHINA

Over 200 Students in Taonan (Jilin Province), China Hospitalized with Suspected Influenza

Beginning 29 June 2005 and continuing onwards, some students of the 10th Middle School in the City of Taonan (Jilin Province in northeastern China) came down with fever and sore throat. By 1 July 2005, 223 students had the above symptoms -- 207

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students were admitted to hospital for treatment. Through detailed examination of patients and after lab tests, the illness was initially diagnosed as influenza. [However, the abruptness of onset, the predominance of sore throats, and the rapid resolution of symptoms do not suggest influenza. Many other viruses and non-viral pathogens could be responsible. Further information is awaited.] After receiving treatment for symptoms, the temperature of 171 students returned to normal and symptoms resolved. The cause of the students' illness has not been conclusively determined.

Source:

· Xinhuanet News Agency, Jilin Taonan, Jul 01, 2005, http://news.xinhuanet.com/newscenter/2005-07/01/content_3163494.htm
· Promed Mail, Jul 02, 2005, http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:8426390229456663541::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010,29514

INDIA

Bangalore, India, Bracing for Increase in Dengue Cases in Next Few Months

Bangalore, India, is bracing for an increase in dengue fever cases as reports of deaths caused by dengue are coming in from neighboring Tumkur. Hospitals in Bangalore have begun receiving several cases of suspected dengue fever, causing alarm among the public as well as health officials. More than 50 patients have been admitted to Manipal Hospital in the city for suspected dengue fever during the last two weeks. Although no fatalities have been reported due to dengue in Bangalore, five patients are undergoing treatment for it at St Philomena's Hospital. An increase in the number of cases is expected in the next three months after heavy rains set in.

Source:

· Khaleej Times, Jul 07, 2005, http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle.asp?xfile=data/subcontinent/2005/July/subcontinent_July222.xml§ion=subcontinent&col

INDONESIA

Indonesia Polio Outbreak Continues to Worsen With 11 New Cases

Indonesian health authorities have reported 11 new cases of polio after a house-to-house search for paralyzed children, pushing the total in the two-month outbreak to 111, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). The newest cases all occurred in the province of Banten on the island of Java, the epicenter of the outbreak. The disease may have hit harder than authorities thought previously, requiring a more intensified immunization response. Polio, which can cause irreversible paralysis in hours, reemerged in May in Indonesia, which was polio-free since 1995. The WHO warns the outbreak may continue to spread and that circulation of the wild polio virus could be occurring in additional provinces. Particularly alarming is that the virus has now spread beyond Java and has hit the neighboring island of Sumatra.

Source:

· Reuters Foundation Alertnet, Jul 06, 2005, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L06128570.htm>
· Communicable Disease Surveillance and Response, WHO, Jul 05, 2005, http://www.who.int/csr/don/2005_07_05/en/index.html

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PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Typhoid Closes School in Papua New Guinea

Classes at Anglimp High School in Papua New Guinea's Western Highlands province have been suspended and 453 students were sent home following reports of a typhoid outbreak. Health authorities have attributed the outbreak to contaminated drinking water and unhygienic toilet facilities. There have been no serious ill-health or deaths reported. Health officers are conducting an investigation at the school and trying to bring the problem under control. Students were also given medication before they left for home. Health officials are also urging people to boil all drinking water, and to keep their homes and toilets clean at all times.

Source:

· The National, Jul 05, 2005, <http://www.thenational.com.pg/>
· Pacific Islands Report, Jul 05, 2005, <http://pidp.eastwestcenter.org/pireport/2005/July/07-05-12.htm>

Papua New Guinea at Risk for HIV/AIDS Epidemic

Papua New Guinea is at risk of an African-level HIV/AIDS epidemic, but other Asia-Pacific nations like Malaysia, Vietnam and Myanmar are also at risk as the number of infections there continue to rise, according to the U.N. AIDS agency. Asia has the second-largest number of people living with HIV/AIDS in the world after sub-Saharan Africa. An additional 12 million people could be infected in the region over the next five years if nothing is done to slow the pace. Papua New Guinea is facing the greatest problem because the disease appears to have moved into the general population, and an estimated 1.7 percent of the country's adults were living with HIV last year. An estimated 8.2 million people were living with the virus in the Asia-Pacific region last year. About 1.2 million were newly infected in 2004, second only to sub-Saharan Africa.

Source:

· CNN News, Jul 03, 2005, <http://www.cnn.com/2005/WORLD/asiapcf/07/03/png.aids.ap/index.html>

PHILIPPINES

Philippines reports first case of bird flu, says not deadly H5N1 strain

Philippines officials announced Friday (July 8) the country's first case of bird flu on an isolated duck farm north of the capital, Manila. Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said that the low-risk H5 strain was detected at a duck farm in the town of Calumpit, in Bulacang province on June 29. "I can assure you there's no indication it's the H5N1. What is detected is an infectious strain... (but) there is no mortality, there is no transmission. The risk to human health is almost nil... This is a very early stage and we are confident that we can contain it," Yap said. He added that migratory birds were probably to blame. Yap says that samples have been sent to Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) laboratories in Australia and that results on which specific strain it was would be expected within a week. "There is no cause for alarm. Even the ducks

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are not sick," Health Secretary Francisco Duque told GMA television. The Philippines had been the only Asian country with a significant poultry industry not yet affected by the bird flu outbreak.

Source:

- Khaleej Times, Jul 08, 2005, http://www.khaleejtimes.com/Displayarticle.asp?section=theworld&xfile=data/theworld/2005/july/theworld_july183.xml
- Yahoo, Jul 08, 2005, <http://asia.news.yahoo.com/050708/afp/050708182755asiapacificnews.html>
- BBC, Jul 08, 2005, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/4662783.stm>

Dengue Fever Killed 77 People in the Philippines This Year

Health authorities are asking local government officials and residents to help counter the increasing incidence of dengue in the Philippines. There were 5,396 dengue patients in various government hospitals nationwide from January to June 15 of this year. There were 77 fatalities nationwide. The increase is due to the onset of rainy season, with water accumulated in junked tin cans, bottles, uncovered containers and clogged gutters serving as breeding places for mosquitoes. Dengue fever is a disease caused by the *Aedes aegypti*, a day biting mosquito. Symptoms of dengue include fever, rashes, severe headache, muscle and joint pains, loss of appetite and vomiting.

Source:

- Mindanews, Jul 05, 2005, <http://www.mindanews.com/2005/07/05nws-dengue.html>

SOUTH KOREA

Outbreak of Rare Bacterial Infection Affects Students in South Korea

More than 140 South Korean students had been infected in an outbreak of a rare bacterial disease in June 2005. According to the Korea Center for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC), a total of 142 school students in the city of Guri, located east of Seoul, were infected with *Arcanobacterium haemolyticum* starting on 20 May 2005. The non-lethal pathogen can cause tonsillitis and chronic skin ulcers. The infection of 142 students was discovered when the KCDC was conducting epidemiological tests on 10 patients at a Guri hospital suffering from unknown causes. The KCDC confirmed the infection by *A. haemolyticum* from samples taken from 8 patients. It is the first reported case of a mass infection by the bacteria in South Korea.

Source:

- Yahoo News Australia & New Zealand, Jul 04, 2005, <http://au.biz.yahoo.com/050704/17/5771.html>
- JoongAng Daily, Korea, Jul 05, 2005, <http://joongangdaily.joins.com/200507/04/200507042254509979900090409041.html>
- Promed Mail, Jul 05, 2005, http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:8426390229456663541::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,29526

SRI LANKA

Dengue Fever Cases Increasing in Colombo, Sri Lanka

The Colombo Municipal Council (CMC) in Sri Lanka is inspecting City montessories for mosquito breeding grounds following a rise in the number of dengue cases. The number

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of dengue-affected children below five years of age has shown a 50% increase in the City. Island-wide, dengue cases have decreased by 60%. Only 1,715 cases have been reported so far while last year there were 15,000 cases. The highest number of cases has been reported from Colombo, Gampaha, and Kalutara while a significant number of cases have been reported from Kandy, Matara, Ratnapura and Kurunegala. Health officers have launched several prevention programs to eradicate the spread of dengue.

Source:

· Daily News, Jul 05, 2005, <http://www.dailynews.lk/2005/07/05/news22.htm>

VIETNAM

Dengue Fever Outbreak in Luang Prabang Province, Vietnam

Over 100 people in Luang Prabang province, Vietnam, have contracted dengue fever from the end of May to June 20. The majority of the patients were under 16 years of age while four were less than five years old. Households in the area were found to have stagnant water left uncovered. This is considered the fundamental cause of the outbreak. Also, parents had not immediately admitted their children to a hospital when they were found to have dengue, choosing instead to treat them at home. Health officials have sent staff to control the outbreak by spraying insecticide twice and distributing chemicals to kill mosquito larvae. Other districts of the province such as Nan and Luang Prabang also experienced dengue fever outbreaks. In Nan district alone, there were more than 40 victims of the disease, while in Luang Prabang district, 25 people were affected.

Source:

· Vientianetimes, Jul 01, 2005, <http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/Contents/2005-125/Dengue.htm>

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